

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO S/S FOR SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR
BUNKER

HERewith FULL TEXT JEREMIAH O'LEARY BYLINER PAGE 14
WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS THURSDAY, JANUARY 17 HEADED "CANAL ZONE
TALKS - KISSINGER PLANS TRIP TO PANAMA":

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS PLANNING
A SHORT VISIT TO PANAMA EARLY NEXT MONTH TO SHOW U.S.
INTEREST IN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SETTLE THE CANAL
ZONE QUESTION ONCE AND FOR ALL, ACCORDING TO INFORMED
SOURCES.

NOW ON A PEACEMAKING MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST,
KISSINGER ALREADY IS BOOKED TO MEET WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN
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FOREIGN MINISTERS IN MEXICO CITY FEB. 20 THROUGH 22. THE

TRIP TO PANAMA COMES AS A SURPRISE BECAUSE IT IS DESCRIBED BY INFORMED SOURCES AS A ONE-COUNTRY JOURNEY AND BECAUSE KISSINGER IS KNOWN TO BE PLANNING A MORE EXTENSIVE SWING THROUGH LATIN AMERICAN IN THE SPRING.

THE DECISION TO GO TO PANAMA, ACCORDING TO INSIDERS, EMPHASIZES THE NEW U.S. CONCERN WITH REACHING EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE PANAMANIAN ON THE FUTURE OF THE CANAL, THE U.S.-CONTROLLED ZONE AND THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT. THERE IS ALSO INTEREST IN POSSIBLE FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE CANAL FACILITIES BY ADDITION OF A THIRD SET OF LOCKS OR EXCAVATION OF A SEA-LEVEL WATERWAY.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT KISSINGER WILL MEET IN PANAMA CITY WITH DEMETRIOS LAKAS, THE FIGUREHEAD PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER JUAN TACK AND BRIG. GEN. OMAR TORRIJOS, COMMANDER OF THE PARA-MILITARY GUARDIA NACIONAL AND PANAMA'S STRONGMAN.

REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON AND PANAMA INDICATE TACK AND ELLSWORTH BUNKER, THE ROVING U.S. AMBASSADOR WHO IS IN CHARGE OF CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, NOW HAVE AGREED ON A SET OF EIGHT PRINCIPLES FOR ACCELERATING THE TALKS.

KISSINGER'S PERSONAL PRESENCE IN PANAMA WILL TEND TO REINFORCE THE IDEA THAT PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE HAGGLED LONG ENOUGH OVER THE CANAL ISSUES. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON SINCE 1967.

THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG RECOGNIZED THAT PANAMA SHOULD AND WILL RECOVER CONTROL OF THE 10-MILE-WIDE CANAL ZONE AND EVENTUALLY WILL BE GIVEN CONTROL OF THE CANAL ITSELF.

THE WHITE HOUSE, MEANWHILE, ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT A KISSINGER AIDE IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WILLIAM JORDAN, WILL BE NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA. JORDAN, A FORMER NEWSPAPERMAN, HAS BEEN THE NSC'S RESIDENT EXPERT ON LATIN AMERICA AND LIAISON BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND THE

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WHITE HOUSE. HE SUCCEEDS AMBASSADOR ROBERT SAYRE.
(END TEXT) RUSH

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